

Press Release

Unified Command
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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Release #14-03
10 p.m.

Shoreline clean up continues

CAPE COD, Mass., - The Coast Guard and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have directed the responsible party (Bouchard Transportation) to increase the number of personnel involved in beach clean-up operations to 700 people by Sunday. There are 550 personnel working in beach clean-up operations today.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services experts will join clean up crews on Ram Island Sunday to employ noise deterrent strategies in an attempt to keep endangered roseate terns that nest on the island from getting oiled. Ram, Bird and Penikese islands have been identified as highly sensitive nesting areas and are being protected by three layers of snare boom.

An estimated 40 miles of shoreline have been impacted by oil. Tar patties and tar balls are shifting and have caused re-oiling at Mattapoissett Harbor and Sconticut Neck. Teams worked to clear those areas. Current weather conditions are winds out of the north at 20-25 knots with seas from 2 to 4 feet. So far, 3,200 gallons of oil and 765 cubic yards of solid oil waste have been collected, equal in volume to 17 tractor-trailers. Response crews have deployed 6500 feet of containment boom.

Additional areas impacted by the oil spill to date are:

- Mishaum Point to Horseneck Beach
- Peases Point to Converse Point
- Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park
- Shore Beach (Little Compton, RI)
- Sippican Neck
- Great Neck
- Naushon Island
- Wild Harbor
- Nye's Neck
- Scraggy Neck (Falmouth)

People should not attempt to remove or clean any oiled beach areas on their own. To report oiled areas please contact the Command Post at 508-968-6659.

Five fast response teams from Clean Harbors continue to respond to reports of newly impacted areas. These teams move quickly in small watercraft to clean up impacted areas to minimize damage caused by the oil.

Three skimmers are available for on-water oil recovery operations and will be directed based on

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the observations from over flights. There is little skimmable oil on the water.

Oil in other impacted areas has formed into tar patties and tar balls, and cannot be skimmed. Shoreline Clean up and Assessment Teams (SCATs) will continue to survey the progress made at impacted shorelines, and protective booming at 15 identified sites will be maintained and monitored.

A wildlife rehabilitation facility is operating at the New Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant where 69 birds are being rehabilitated with commons loons being the predominant species. So far, 91 birds have been reported dead. The public should not handle oiled or dead wildlife. To report impacted areas or wildlife, contact the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay at **508-999-6363**.

A marine casualty investigation into the cause of the oil spill is ongoing. Any fines or penalties will be assessed when the findings of the investigation are complete. Results of drug and alcohol tests on the crew of the tug *EVENING TIDE* were negative.

Anyone with financial losses resulting from this spill should contact the responsible party claims hotline at **800-995-4045**.

Questions regarding fisheries closings should be directed to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries at **508-563-1779**, Mondays through Fridays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Shoreline Clean Up and Assessment Teams are placing colored flags on impacted beaches and sensitive areas. Orange flags denote shoreline areas in need of cleanup. Yellow flags denote environmentally sensitive habitat areas. If people encounter these flags, they should not remove them.

Offloading of the remaining gallons of fuel from Bouchard barge B. No. 120 continues at the ESCO terminal.

A forward operations center is being established in New Bedford, Mass. This office will assist in the coordination of activity in the affected communities.

For information regarding clean up, media should contact the Joint Information Center at **(508) 968-6440, (508) 968-6650, (508) 968-6652, or (508) 968-6665**.

News, photos and other information on the spill are available to the public at www.incidentnews.gov.

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